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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT Reported New Security Measures for Estonian Shipping/
Assignment of Radar-Equipped Soviet Freighters to
Estonian Registry

[redacted]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. "New security measures have been introduced since the beginning of April 1953 on all ships maintaining communication between the port of Tallinn and the islands of Hiiumaa, Saaremaa and Osmussaar. [redacted] These ships must now have pilots who are officers or NCOs of the Soviet Navy. They direct the course of the ships, maintaining constant radio communication with the Soviet naval bases on Hiiumaa and Saaremaa. This has become necessary, because certain areas, north of these two islands, have been recently mined.
2. "Three Soviet freighters, the 'Melitopol', 'Akademik Karpinskyi' and 'Kirovabad', were assigned 1 April 53 to the ESTMORPAROKHODSTVO (Sea Transport Trust) in Tallinn. They were entered in the port register as Estonian Republican Ships. These freighters are equipped with new radar apparatus manned by members of the RLO/VMF (Radar Service of the Soviet Navy).
3. "The base of the Sea Frontier Guard in Tallinn received at the beginning of April 1953 seven large motor boats equipped with radar apparatus."

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